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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor

for the

YEAR 1953

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. P. MEARS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Amphyll Urban District for the year 1953.

The vital statistics for the District during 1953 indicate a satisfactory level of health in the community.

The birth rate is exceptionally high this year and the infant mortality is high (two deaths under the age of one year). With such a small population, however, wide fluctuations of these rates are to be expected and are not of great significance.

Throughout the year the water supply of the District was adequate in quantity and quality and a further small extension was made to the mains. Practically all the premises in the District are on main drainage. This is causing some overloading of the Sewage Works which is in need of considerable extension and alteration to take the ever increasing load.

During the year Amphyll House was demolished and the estate disposed of. There is some prospect of it being used for private residential purposes. It will be of great benefit to the District.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Council and Council staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY,

Medical Officer of Health.

8th June, 1954

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1953

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health—H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager—

J. P. MEARS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Water Engineer—R. W. COLLINSON.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	acres	1,904
Population—										
Census for 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		2,873
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year										
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		3,039
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1,003
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		£17,187
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		£66 14 8

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Ampthill is in the Southern Half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside on two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery and Ampthill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Ampthill station is on the main line from St. Pancras and the district is well served by the United Counties Omnibus Service.

The district is mainly residential, with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural engineering, fodder mill, and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, particularly in the factories there, but others are employed at Messrs. J. R. Ferguson's factory and the brickworks which are quite nearby. The remainder are engaged in farming, market gardening and other employment consistent with a small town of this size.

Ampthill Park provides facilities for cricket, football, hockey and fishing, and a children's recreation ground where equipment is continually being added. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls Club, Rugby and Badminton Clubs, Choral and Dramatic Societies and the Ampthill Town Band, and mainly for the younger people Scouts and Youth Clubs.

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	34	21	55
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Total	36	21	57
Crude Birth Rate	18.8 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate ...	21.0 " " " "		
(The comparability facto	for the District being 1.12)		

As compared with :—

Average of last 5 years ...	16.1 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire ...	15.0	" "	" "
Rate for England & Wales	15.5	" "	" "

STILL BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1

Still Birth Rate 17.2 per 1,000 live and still births

As compared with :—

Average of last 5 years ...	29.5 per 1,000 live and still births					
Rate for Bedfordshire ...	22.7	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
Rate for England & Wales	22.4	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "

DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths in the District ...	15	14	29
Transferred into District	8	6	14
Transferred from District	—	—	—
Total ...	23	20	43
Crude Death Rate ...	14.2 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Death Rate ...	9.9 " " " "		
(The comparability factor for the District being .70)			

As compared with :—

Average of last 5 years ...	13.1 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire ...	9.6	" "	" "
Rate for England & Wales	11.4	" "	" "

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	2	—	2

Infant Mortality Rate 35.1 per 1,000 related live births

As compared with :—

Average of last 5 years ...	13.11 per 1,000 related live births				
Rate for Bedfordshire ...	24.5	" "	" "	" "	" "
Rate for England & Wales	26.8	" "	" "	" "	" "

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH.

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1,000 live births

As compared with :—

Average of last 5 years ...	00.0 per 1,000 live births			
Rate for Bedfordshire ...	0.20	" "	" "	" "
Rate for England & Wales	0.76	" "	" "	" "

PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES	Under 15 years		15—65 years		Over 65 years		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory
2. Tuberculosis, other
3. Syphilitic disease
4. Diphtheria
5. Whooping Cough
6. Meningococcal infections
7. Acute poliomyelitis
8. Measles
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	...	1	...
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	...	...	...	2	...
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	...	1	...	3	...
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia
16. Diabetes	1	...	1	...	2	...
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	1	4	1	5
18. Coronary disease, angina	1	...	4	3	5	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	...	...	1	1	1
20. Other heart disease	3	4	3	4
21. Other circulatory disease	1	...	1	...
22. Influenza
23. Pneumonia	2	...	2
24. Bronchitis	1	1	...	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	...	1	...	...	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	...	...	...	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion
31. Congenital malformations	1	...	...	...	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	...	...	1	...	2	...
33. Motor vehicle accidents
34. All other accidents	1	...	1
35. Suicide
36. Homicide and operations of war
All Causes	2	...	7	5	14	15	23	20

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Cause	Age	Total
Atelectasis	2 hours	1
Gastro enteritis	2 months	1

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WESTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS.

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton.
CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS).
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Bedford County Hospital (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4—8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6.0 p.m. Wednesday, 5.0—7 p.m. Thursday, 6.0 p.m. Friday, 3.0—5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance :

...
Mondays, 5—6.30 p.m., Wednesdays, 5—7.30 p.m., Fridays, 2.30—5.30 p.m.

PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

...
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospital and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows :—

AMPTHILL, 14 Dunstable Street	...	...	Telephone : Ampthill 3333.
BEDFORD, Dent's Road	...	...	Telephone : Bedford 5335.
BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane	...	...	Telephone : Biggleswade 2295.
DUNSTABLE, High Street North	...	...	Telephone : Dunstable 761.
LUTON, 42, Church Street	...	...	Telephone : Luton 4600.
LINSLADE, Bucks. County Council.			
10 New Road, Linslade			Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 3332.
RUSHDEN, Rushden & District Motor Ambulance Association,			
Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road	...		Telephone : Rushden 403.

(b) DOMICILARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurse employed is :—

NURSE EVANS, S.R.N., S.C.M., "Conway," Lyme Road, Ampthill.
Tel : Ampthill 2210.

(c) HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

MISS E. V. MABERLY, 11a Pemberley Avenue, Bedford.
Tel : Bedford 61846.

(d) HOME HELP SERVICE.

Organiser :

MRS. V. M. PEDLEY, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford.

(e) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Fridays 2 p.m.

(f) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Alternate Fridays 10 a.m.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act, 1890. Parts i, ii, iii.
Public Health Act, 1925. Part i.
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Part i.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Building Byelaws.
New Streets.
Nuisances Contrary to Public Decency.
Telegraph &c. Wires.
Water Regulations and Charges.

6. SCHOOLS.

The two schools in the District are both held in overcrowded and dilapidated buildings. However, they both have main drainage and main water supply. The new Secondary Modern School on the Flitwick Road is planned to come into operation early next year and will relieve this overcrowding.

CLOSURES.—It was unnecessary to close either of the schools through infectious diseases.

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks situated at Clophill, has three boreholes sunk into the greensand which supply the whole of the Urban District, together with bulk supplies to the Ampthill Rural District Council.

The water is treated for hardness with Hydrated Buxton Lime, flows through sedimentation tanks, is treated with Calgon and chlorine, then filtered before passing into the pumping and distribution mains.

Daily tests are carried out for hardness and residual chlorine, and at monthly intervals bacteriological examinations are made of samples taken from various points in the area of supply. In addition periodical chemical analyses are made of the raw and treated water, and it is satisfactory to note that both the bacteriological and the chemical examinations have revealed a high standard of purity.

The water as passed into supply is slightly hard, averaging 14.2 parts per 100,000. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

Number of houses supplied from public mains in Ampthill	...	1,001
---------------------------------------------------------	-----	-------

Population in Ampthill supplied from public water mains approx.	2,780
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-------

(a) Direct to houses	...	966 houses
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(b) By means of private standpipes	...	44 houses
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Bulk supplies of water are taken by the Ampthill Rural District for consumers in Clophill, Maulden and Stewartby.

680 feet of 3-inch main was laid during the year between the recently constructed road leading from Oliver Street and the junction of Neotsbury Road and Willow Way.

TYPICAL RESULT

OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER.

Parts per million.

Nitrogen, Ammoniacal	0.180
„ Albuminoid	0.040
„ Nitrous	None
„ Nitric	0.940
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	0.04
„ „ „ 4 hours	0.24
Hardness, temporary	125.0
„ permanent	95.0
Iron	None

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consists of the following:—Detritus and sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge lagoons. The treated effluent discharges into Running Waters Brook which enters the River Flitt. During the year, further progress was made in connection with the extension of the works, the proposed works being slightly modified to provide for additional housing development.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution were received, but samples of sewage effluent and water from Running Waters Brook were not of a high standard.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but thirty-nine houses with no sewer available are drained to cesspools. Ten cottages (isolated cottages and agricultural dwellings) have only pail closets.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has been carried out by a private contractor with a properly covered refuse collecting vehicle. A weekly collection is in operation and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a site near Bedford Road Hill.

6. SALVAGE.

During the year 11 tons 3 cwt. of waste paper was collected and sold which realised the sum of £36 5s. 0d. Only waste paper from business premises near the town centre was collected as it is found uneconomical to collect from houses and premises throughout the whole district.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary and other defects during the year :—

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	...	...	...	7
" " insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	1
" " insanitary and defective drains	...	...	...	6
" " insanitary and defective cesspools	...	...	...	4
" " defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	...	...	...	5
" " defective floors	...	...	...	1
Dirty premises	...	...	...	2
Dangerous structure	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	3
Unsound meat and other foods	...	...	...	22
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	3
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs, etc.	...	...	...	—
Nuisance from rats and mice	...	...	...	31
Other dilapidations	...	...	...	2
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	1
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	83
" " defective premises	...	...	...	27

8. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

9. CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District and during the year only one caravan was licensed for a temporary period, no other applications being received.

10. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints or reports of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

11. DISINFESTATION.

No treatment was necessary.

8. HOUSING.

Eight Council houses were completed during the year, making the total number of post-war dwellings 108, consisting of 84 traditional houses, 18 traditional type flats and six prefabricated bungalows. 7 private houses were completed and occupied.

The following private plans were approved under Building byelaws :—

2 houses.	4 alterations to domestic premises.
2 bungalows.	5 alterations to business premises.
1 Agricultural building.	
1 Automatic telephone exchange.	
3 Garages.	

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Twenty-one applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts were received, of which 14 were approved, 2 withdrawn and 5 refused.

RODENT CONTROL.

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys, etc., and take such steps as to keep infestations down to the minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sewage works and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests and treatment of the Sewerage System were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

NO. OF PREMISES HANDLING FOOD & VISITS MADE THERETO.

(a) SHOPS

	Premises	Visits Made
1. Ice Cream Vendors	9	31
2. Bakers and confectioners	4	17
3. Grocers	3	11
4. Fishmongers	2	13
5. General village stores	7	11
6. Delicatessen shops	—	—
7. Butchers	5	31
8. Dairies and retail milk distributors	4	22

(b) VANS, STALLS AND HAWKERS

3 17

(c) CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Restaurants and cafes	4	15
2. Industrial canteens	—	—
3. School canteens	1	2
4. Hotels	1	4

5.	Outside catering contractors	...	...	...	2	2
6.	Fish and chip shops	...	...	...	1	5
7.	Others	...	...	...	—	—
(d) MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS						
1.	Sausage makers	...	...	...	5	31
2.	Meat pie and cooked meat makers	...	...	...	5	31
3.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	2	11
4.	Ice cream makers	...	...	...	2	7
5.	Confectionery manufacturers	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Others	...	...	...	—	—

MILK SUPPLY.

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers' premises which were found to be satisfactory. Two dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :--

244 lbs. Beef	147 lbs Mixed Groceries
5 lbs. Mutton	21 lbs. Fish
36 Tinned Meats	7 lbs. Cheese

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

The five butchers' shops and premises have been inspected and found to be most satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

These two premises have been visited regularly and found to be generally satisfactory, though informal action was necessary in one instance.

ICE CREAM REGISTRATIONS.

Seven premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, two of whom are manufacturers, but contravention of the Heat treatment regulations was discovered in one instance after which manufacture was discontinued voluntarily by the owner. Samples of ice cream were regularly taken and these were found to be generally satisfactory.

10. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to Hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that Scarlet Fever and Measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The only infectious disease notified during the year was measles. A high case rate was recorded but most cases were mild and no deaths occurred.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DESEASES

NOTIFICATION BY AGE GROUPS Rate per 1000 of Population

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital	1953	Eng. & Wales 1953	Average last 5 years
Measles	...	5	5	...	7	12	6	11	46	1	15.13	12.36	5.03

TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS.

AGE				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-35	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35-65	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR.

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
M.	F.	M.	F.
10	3	—	4

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

This District	...	...	0.00
Bedfordshire	...	...	0.15
England and Wales	...	...	0.20

11. MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The unit did not visit the district during the year.

12. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

	At Schools & Clinics	By General Practitioners
Full Courses	48	7
Boosters	44	6

IMMUNISATION STATE OF CHILD POPULATION.

	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total under 15
Children completely protected (i.e. have received primary or booster injections since 1st January, 1939).	2	145	137	124	408
Children partially protected (i.e. had received primary injections prior to 1st January, 1939 but have had no booster since).			54	10	64
	2	145	191	134	472

VACCINATION CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

	At Schools & Clinics	By General Practitioners
Primary vaccinations ...	—	7
Revaccinations	—	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Scabies.

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford. The cost is 10/- per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	19	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises)	2	5	—	—
TOTAL ...	16	34	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	—			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1			
TOTAL ...	3	2	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by ect. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

† i.e., Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104), and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

